

**Governor's P-20 Council
Access to Higher Education Committee Meeting
Tuesday, January 24, 2006
3:30 p.m.
Committee Minutes**

P-20 Council Members Present: Dr. Jim Zaharis, Dr. John Haeger, Dr. Peter Likins, Dr. Michael Crowe, Mark Bryce, Greg Donovan, Dr. Michael Curd, Dr. Laura Palmer Noone, Vivian Gonzales, Ernie Calderon

Others: Dr. Don Isaacson, Dr. April Osborn, Jim Horton, Page Gonzales, Lorie O'Brien, Kathy Boyle, Stephanie Jacobson, Pat Haevser, Christy Farley, Don Isaacson, Jason Rose, Cheri St. Arnauld, Dr. Larry Christiansen, Martha Harmon, and Helen Rosen

Staff: Debra Raeder and Darcy Renfro

1. Call to Order, Welcome & Introductions

Chair Dr. Jim Zaharis called the meeting to order at 3:30 p.m., welcomed everyone to the meeting and invited those present to introduce themselves.

2. Approval of Committee Meeting Minutes

- a. September 27, 2005**
- b. November 18, 2005**

Dr. Zaharis asked for any discussion/comments and approval of the Committee Meeting Minutes of September 27, 2005 and November 18, 2005. There was no discussion on the September 27, 2005 minutes. Mark Bryce asked that the minutes of the November 18, 2005 reflect that he questioned extensively the methodology and conclusions of the Glennon Report. With that correction to the November 18th, 2005 minutes, Dr. John Haeger moved that the minutes of September 27th and November 18th be approved. The motion was seconded by Mark Bryce and unanimously approved.

3. Governor's Guiding Principles

Darcy Renfro distributed a copy of the Governor's Guiding Principles for framing the discussions on higher education issues, which were initially discussed at the September 27th meeting. These Principles are:

- Increase accessibility to all higher education institutions in Arizona for all students.
- Arizona has one of the best community college systems in the country. We need to develop policies that enhance the system, not detract from it.
- We must avoid all or nothing approaches when it comes to access and affordability to higher education.
- We must generate higher education systems that meet workforce needs.

- Isolated decision-making about education system must end as we focus on the entire education spectrum.

Dr. Likens suggested that the word the word "qualified" be inserted after "all" on the first bullet point.

4. Update – Alignment Project Report

Darcy Renfro provided an update to the Committee on the Alignment Project Report. The Alignment Project Committee has received an overview of the Report and will receive a draft copy of the Report on Friday, January 27, 2006. The Committee will provide comment to Public Works on or before February 2, 2006. The final report will be presented to the P-20 Council at the February 16, 2006 meeting.

The emphasis of the report was to look at five major industries that have been targeted in Arizona where job growth or development will be occurring, and identify occupations within these industries that meet a defined high-wage, high-demand/high-growth standard and then to identify specific skills, education and training needed for these occupations. This information was then validated with industry focus groups. In tandem with this work, Public Works did an analysis on the preparedness of Arizona's high school students for postsecondary study and the workplace focusing on the adequacy of academic preparation and articulation with requirements for post secondary study. The major findings of the Report are that Arizona's secondary system is not well aligned with the requirement for post-secondary study and the workplace, and that Arizona high school academic and graduation requirements are not sufficient to equip all students with the necessary skills and knowledge for success.

5. Report on JCC recommendations

Dr. Larry Christiansen, Dr. John Haeger, and Regent Ernie Calderon presented an update on the JCC recommendations for improving affordable access to Baccalaureate Degrees. Regent Calderon briefly discussed the JCC Executive Summary and that the consensus reached was due to the hard work of Dr. Haeger and Dr. Christiansen. Dr. Christiansen then provided a thorough review of the Executive Summary emphasizing that resources is the major issue in the discussions. He further indicated that the role of JCC was to focus on public institutions improving access to higher education. Dr. Christiansen indicated that early in the process the JCC reached consensus on four of the six recommendations:

1. Increase transfer credits for selected programs;
2. Increases the number and scope of community college-university partnerships;
3. Establish joint funding models;
4. Expand Arizona University systems campuses and statewide programs.

Dr. Christiansen provided examples of how these 4 recommendations are already being accomplished through 2+2 and 3+1 programs at various institutions; the NAU/AWC collaborative; UofA/Cochise Community College collaborative; as well as small, but targeted, partnerships between some public and private institutions (e.g. Mesa Community College and Ottawa); and that these types of programs would move forward

institution by institution. Dr. Christiansen emphasized that all of these issues must be approached looking at the funding models.

The Committee requested staff to provide an inventory of the various university/community college/private institution collaboratives currently implemented.

Dr. Christensen briefly discussed the two issues that originally had disagreement by JCC:

5. Develop a pathway for baccalaureate degrees at community colleges;
6. Explore the need and create a pathway for a 4-year regional degree granting college.

When the JCC was unable to agree on these final two recommendations, Regent Calderon appointed Dr. Haeger and Dr. Christiansen to work as a committee to find a solution. Dr. Haeger indicated that, using a systemic approach, he and Dr. Christiansen worked to reach a compromise that received consensus by the JCC as well as ACCA.

For issue no. 5, developing a pathway for baccalaureate degrees at community colleges, the major issue to be resolved was determining a review process based on established criteria. The review process developed included a process for determining:

1. Need;
2. Determining the University Program Provider;
3. Determining the Non-University Program Provider; and
4. Program criteria

For issue no. 6, a pathway for a 4-year regional degree granting college, the process would be the same as outlined for developing a pathway for baccalaureate degrees at community colleges. In addition, the following pre-conditions would need to be addressed:

1. Local community college board has indicated both the need and willingness to support expansion of the respective community college mission;
2. There is limited university access for students in the region;
3. Appropriate accreditation is available and could be obtained;
4. Sufficient infrastructure exists to support a baccalaureate degree granting college
5. An implementation plan is developed and submitted to JCC, the
6. Legislature, office of the Governor, and the Arizona Board of Regents;
7. Governance issues are addressed between the community college board, ABOR, the legislature and the appropriate accrediting agencies.

Dr. Laura Palmer Noone stated that she applauded the work of Dr. Haeger and Dr. Christiansen and agrees with the position on the first four recommendations indicating these were long overdue. However, regarding recommendations 5 and 6, the private institutions were not included in the discussions, that the discussion is about affordability, and that private institutions could provide the solution without any tax increase. Dr. Noone stated that the state currently has no idea what it will cost, that it is premature to

act, and that the taxpayer should know the cost. It was noted that The Elliott Pollack Group is working on a study to address the cost issue.

The Committee asked for information on the item no. 6 agenda item before resuming their discussion on the JCC Recommendations.

6. Higher Education Legislation

Darcy Renfro reported that Senator Gray and Representative Knaperek have drafted legislation that would provide for a K-20 Coordinating Council and that a process for community college baccalaureate degrees is not included in the bill. Darcy indicated that the bill does not provide for this coordinating council to have any authority. Committee members indicated that other bills that have been brought forward include: HB 2372, which would fund only courses that transfer to universities – which basically means no CTE courses and would wipe out the mission of community colleges; SB 1323 – increase in PFAT program; HB 2624 – Eastern Arizona College – 4 year baccalaureate legislation; HB2280 – tax deduction – 529 education plans; HB2710 – college savings plan - treasures; HB 2626 – work study-student financial aid.

7. Next Steps

The Committee members then provided comment on the JCC recommendations. Regent Calderon indicated that JCC has done their work and these recommendations need to move to the P-20 Council. Mark Bryce stated he was supportive of the JCC recommendations with the caveat that these recommendations were a step forward and not the exclusive remedy for the access to baccalaureate degrees. Mr. Bryce also requested that the Governor's principles be voted on. Dr. Laura Palmer Noone indicated no support for the recommendations. The rest of the committee members individually voiced their support of the JCC recommendations. Dr. Zaharis asked that the JCC Recommendations move to the P-20 Council to build support.

Committee members voiced concern regarding HB 2372 and that the concepts in this bill are not supported by the Committee.

8. Call to the Public

Dr. Zaharis asked for any public comment. There was none.

9. Adjournment

There being no further business before the Committee, Dr. Zaharis adjourned the meeting at 4:58 p.m.